



MEDIA ADVISORY

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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17th Anniversary Silent Witness Ceremony to Honor 2013 Victims of Fatal Domestic Violence

Ceremony to be held on the first Tuesday of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

(Columbia, S.C.) Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the annual Silent Witness Domestic Violence ceremony would be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. on the south steps of the State House in Columbia. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The names of all 2013 fatal domestic violence victims in South Carolina will be announced.

For seventeen years, the Attorney General's Office has sponsored the Silent Witness ceremony to remember and pay respect to those who lost their lives in the preceding year as a result of domestic violence. South Carolina currently ranks second in the nation for women killed by men.

During the solemn ceremony, Attorney General Wilson will call the name of each 2013 domestic violence fatality as a relative, friend or volunteer carries a life-sized silhouette representing that victim to the State House steps. An additional silhouette will represent all unknown victims.

A bell will be rung once for each victim. Victim advocates, faith leaders, and the son of a woman who lost her life to domestic violence will all make brief remarks.

Last year's ceremony remembered the 48 men and women across South Carolina who died in 2012 as the result of domestic violence.

The event is open to the public. Additional information about the Silent Witness ceremony is available on the Attorney General's Office web site at: www.scag.gov/criminal-domestic-violence-in-south-carolina.

NOTE: A very limited number of victims' family and friends have agreed to speak to the media following the ceremony. To arrange an interview, please contact Mark Powell at (803) 734-3670 or via email at mpowell@scag.gov

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